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REMARKS

The amendments to the application have been made to remove multiple dependencies from some of the claims, to make claim 8 more clear, to set forth headings in the specification, to make the ABSTRACT more clear, and to conform with U.S. practice. The "translated" English language title has been amended to the English language title as set forth by WIPO in the PCT Publication WO 01/08180 A1 so as to minimize confusion.

Applicant believes that these amendments are fully supported by the international application and do not believe that these amendments constitute new matter.

Applicant herewith submits a copy of the English translation of the original international application along with this Preliminary Amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached marked-up version is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

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Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT

The ABSTRACT on page 11 of the specification has been re-written as follows:

A B S T R A C T

A switching system comprises at least one fused switch unit (10) with a fuse link (20) which can be switched on and off, having a make switch and a break switch and a blocking apparatus, for keeping the circuit open. A combined switching and blocking apparatus (30) is provided, with a blocking element (32) having at least one blocking rod (33) for each fused switch unit (10) being mounted on an operating lever (31) of the switch. An interlocking element (35) having an opening (36) is provided for each fused switch unit [(20)] (10) and can be switched to and fro in the fused switch unit (10) together with the associated fuse link (20). A blocking rod (33) can be inserted into the opening (36) in the interlocking element (35) only when the fuse link (20) is in its switched-on position. The operating lever (31) of the switch can be switched to close the circuit only when each blocking rod (33) can be inserted into the associated opening (36) in the interlocking element (35). A fuse link [(10)] (20) cannot be moved to its switched-off position when the blocking rod (33) is inserted into the opening (36) in the interlocking element (35).

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, in lines 1 and 2 of the English language translation, the title has been canceled and replaced with the following new title, new paragraph, and new heading as follows:

**SWITCHING SYSTEM WITH A COMBINED
SWITCHING AND BLOCKING DEVICE**

This application is an application filed under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 371 as a national stage of international application PCT/EP00/06937, which was filed July 20, 2000.

TECHNICAL FIELD.

On page 1, the paragraph beginning at line 4 has been amended by changing it to two paragraphs with an interposed heading as follows:

The invention relates to a switching system which has at least one fused switch unit with a fuse link which can be switched to and fro between a switched-on position and a switched-off position.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Such a switching system furthermore has a switch for closing and interrupting the circuit of the electrical power system, as well as a switching and blocking apparatus which prevents the circuit from being closed by the switch.

On page 1, after line 30, the following new heading has been added:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

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On page 1, the paragraph beginning on page 37 has been amended as follows:

The object is achieved by a switching system as claimed [in claim 1, and claims 2 to 8 relate to particularly advantageous embodiments of the switching system] according to the invention.

On page 4, after line 17, the following new heading has been added:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

On page 4, after line 32, the following new heading has been added:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT.

On page 9, in line 1, the heading has been changed as follows:

[Patent Claims] WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A switching system, having:
 - at least one fused switch unit (10) with a fuse link (20) which can be switched to and fro between a switched-on position and a switched-off position,
 - a switch for closing and interrupting the circuit of the switching system,

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- a blocking apparatus, which can prevent the circuit from being closed by the switch,

wherein

- a combined switching and blocking apparatus (30) is provided, with a blocking element (32) having at least one blocking rod (33) for each fused switch unit (10) being mounted on an operating lever (31) of the switch for closing and interrupting the circuit,

- an interlocking element (35) having an opening (36) is provided for each fused switch unit (10) and is arranged in the fused switch unit (20) such that it can be switched to and fro together with the associated fuse link (20), and in which

- a blocking rod (33) can be inserted into the opening (36) in the associated interlocking element (35) only when the associated fuse link (20) is in its switched-on position,

- the operating lever (31) of the switch can be switched to close the circuit only when each blocking rod (33) can be inserted into the associated opening (36) in the interlocking element (35), and

- a fuse link [(10)] (20) cannot be moved to its switched-off position when the associated blocking rod (33) is inserted in the opening (36) in the associated interlocking element (35).

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Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The switching system as claimed [in one] of claim[s] 1 [or 2], wherein a fused switch unit (10) has a switching rocker for holding the fuse link (20) or the fuse plug (40), and the switching rocker can be switched to and fro between a switched-on position and a switched-off position.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) The switching system as claimed in claim 1 [one of the preceding claims], wherein the interlocking element (35) is in the form of a guide element.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Amended) The switching system as claimed in claim 1 [one of the preceding claims], wherein the interlocking element (35) has at least one latching element (37) which engages with a corresponding latching element (38, 39) on the fused switch unit (10) when the fuse link (20), the fuse plug (40) and/or the switching rocker are/is in the switched-off position and/or in the switched-on position.

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